**Reluctance of Government agencies *ta* purchase grains in Punjab**

7640. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Ministar of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reluctance of Gov-ernment procurement; agencies to purchase grains due to insufficient storage capacity, the shortage of diesel and absence of private buyers from other States have rung alarm bells for the Punjab farmer during the current rabi season; and

(b) if *so, the remedial measures being* taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No. Sir, Against the market arrival of 66.48 lakh tonnes of wheat in Punjab, a quantity of 66.00 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by public procuring agencies for Central Pool upto 22.5. 1995 in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1995-96. Market arrival and procurement of wheat in Punjab, were 68.71 lakh tonnes and 67.70 lakh tonnes respectively during the corresponding period last year.

The main reason behind slow arrivals was inclement weather and delayed harvesting. However, the daily arrivals of wheat in Punjab since 01.5.1995 have been higher as compared to last year.

**Import of maize**

7641. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to import maize.

**गुड़ के उत्पादन में कमी**

**7642. चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह :**
**श्री आस मौहम्मद :**

क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में गुड़ का उत्पादन कम होता जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान गुड़ का कितना-कितना उत्पादन हुआ ; और

(ग) कम उत्पादन का क्या कारण रहा है ?

**खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजित सिंह)** : (क) से (ग) 1992–93 मौसम के दौरान गुड़ (खण्डसारी सहित) का अनुमानित उत्पादन 101 लाख मीटरीटन था, जो पिछले तीन मौसमों के औसत उत्पादन से लगभग 10 लाख मीटरी टन अधिक था । व्यापार मण्डल (ट्रेड सर्किल) के अनुसार 1993–94 मौसम के दौरान गुड़ का उत्पादन 10 लाख मीटरी टन और बढ़ गया ।

एक विवरण संलग्न है जिसमें 1990–91, 1991–92 और 1992-93 मौसमों के दौरान गुड़ (खण्डसारी सहित) के उत्पादन का ब्यौरा दिया गया है ।